Portuguese Republic

World Conference of Ministers
Responsible for Youth

Lisbon, Portugal
8-12 August 1998

United Nations

WCMRY/1998/19
22 July 1998

Original: English

FIRST REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH MINISTERS OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY, HELD IN FRENCH POLYNESIA ON 30 JUNE AND 1 JULY 1998

Note by the Conference secretariat

The Conference secretariat has the honour to circulate to Conference participants, as received and in the language of submission only, the attached Communiqué on Pacific Youth, adopted at the First Regional Conference of Youth Ministers of the Pacitic Community, held in French Polynesia on 30 June and 1 July 1998.

98-21520

Communiqué on Pacific Youth

Published by the Pacific Youth Resource Bureau, Secretariat of the Pacific Community,
B.P. D5, 98848 Noumea Cedex, New Caledonia, 1998

PACIFIC YOUTH MINISTERS ADOPT THE PACIFIC YOUTH STRATEGY 2005

The First Regional Conference of Youth Ministers of the Pacific Community at its meeting held in French Polynesia from 30th June to 1st July 1998 adopted the **Pacific Youth Strategy 2005** (PYS 2005) as a strategy framework for addressing the increasing youth challenges in the Pacific region into the next century.

The PYS 2005 was commended to the Youth Ministers Meeting by the 4th Regional Conference on Pacific Youth which met from 24th – 27th June. PYS 2005 portrays six programmes as forming the platform for youth activities in the region toward the year 2005 and beyond.
These programmes are :

1. **Pacifika Aspirations** which focuses on full participation of young people in development.

2. **Challenge Pacifika** which calls for urgent action to implement positive practical responses to emerging issues including education, employment, youth health, environment, juvenile delinquency and promotion of peace.

3. **Youth-Lead Pacifika** which focuses on skills development and capacity-building through appropriate training.

4. **Pacifika Advocacy** which highlights the important role played by the private sector, churches, NGOs, and youth organisations in youth development.

5. **Infoshare Pacifika** which focuses on collection, compilation and dissemination of information on youth development.

6. **Pacifika Empowerment** which focuses on assistance, to the 12 SPC Small Island States, and support entrepreneurial initiatives from young people in all member countries and territories.

In adopting the PYS 2005, Youth Ministers, and senior government officials from SPC's member countries and territories and representatives from NGO's, regional and international agencies, acknowledge the need for a more broad-based and integrated approach to address youth challenges at both the national and regional level.

The PYS 2005 provides this broad-based approach and is comprehensive yet flexible enough to be responsive to emerging issues in the region.

The Ministers agreed to commend this strategy to their respective governments and administrations and to advocate for resources to facilitate the implementation of the Strategy, as well as promoting it at the World Conference of Youth Ministers in Lisbon, Portugal and other appropriate regional and international fora.

RESOLUTION ON PACIFIC YOUTH
BY
THE 1ST CONFERENCE OF YOUTH MINISTERS OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

The First Regional Conference of Pacific Youth Ministers for Pacific Youth convened in Papeete, from 30th June to 1st July 1998:

Recognising that young people are a *valuable* resource within our respective countries and territories,

Taking into account *the challenges* facing the young people of the Pacific today,

Being aware of the *limitations* of current approaches and existing programmes and opportunities available for the development of youth in the Pacific region,

Noting especially the high youth population and the consequent population implications ; and the *escalating* problems faced by young people of our respective countries and territories as:

- inadequate education opportunities
- lack of employment opportunities
- sexual, reproductive health problems
- mental health problems and suicide
- physical, emotional and sexual abuse
- crime and juvenile delinquency
- drugs and substance abuse (including alcohol and cigarettes)
- individual, family, cultural and religious conflicts
- lack of self-esteem
- changing lifestyle

Being mindful of efforts made by individual countries and territories, non-government organisations, churches, and regional, international and donors agencies,

Recognising that different countries and territories may require *different approaches* to respond to youth challenges,

And having considered the resolution of the fourth Regional Conference for Pacific Youth provided to this Conference addressing youth concerns in the region into the twenty first century:

Accepted the need for *concerted collective action* amongst youth organisations, churches, non-government organisations, governments, administrations, regional and international organisations, and donors to work together to more holistically address the problems and challenges affecting young people in the Pacific,

Have a vision of a *dynamic* and *vibrant* region that involves young people within overall national development,

Agreed to realise this vision, through:
- country specific activities
- regional initiatives
- political commitment
- donor support

Further agreed that maximum benefits for Pacific Island countries and territories can only be achieved through:

- continuous political commitment toward adequate allocation of resources for planning and implementing activities at all levels,
- collaboration by all stakeholders with an interest in youth qt national and regional levels,
- effective partnerships between development agencies and national and regional authorities.

And further agreed that programmes focus on:

- involving young people in decision making, planning and implementation of activities,
- developing and implementing youth policies and strategies,
- improving leadership, management and organisational capacities,
- developing and strengthening networks and information s,ystems, e.g. homepage for youth
- encouraging youth and community development activities,
- fostering a positive mental attitude approach.
- reduction and elimination of abuse of any kind on children and young prop'e

Hereby endorse and adopt *the Pacific Youth Strategy 2005 and commend it as the strategic framework for youth development in the Pacific region towards the year 2005 and beyond.* This Strategy portrays the following six programmes as forming the Platform for youth activities into the next century.

I. PROGRAMME I: PACIFIKA ASPIRATIONS

The **PACIFIKA ASPIRATIONS** programme focuses on promoting the full participation of young people in the economic, social, spiritual, and cultural development of society and recognising their unique contributions to the development of society.

The two key components of **PACIFIKA ASPIRATIONS** are:

1) development of **gender-inclusive national youth policies;**

2) establishment of the **Pacific Youth Awards for Excellence,** to recognise outstanding contributions young people have made to their respective societies. The awards will be at national and regional levels.

I. PROGRAMME II: CHALLENGE PACIFIKA

CHALLENGE PACIFIKA is a call for urgent action in implementing positive and practical responses to emerging issues including:

(i) Education

The Pacific region has made significant progress for several decades in extending basic education and literacy to most sections of societies. However, progress has been slower than anticipated in some island countries.

Intervention Strategy

1. ***Advocate for the introduction into the school curricula, more subjects involving the***

Development of skills needed for economic growth.

2. *Promote education for responsible family life as an integral and inalienable part of the formal and informal education programme for young people in order to enable them to learn survival skills in a rapidly changing society and ensure a smooth transition from the dependence of childhood to the independence of adulthood.*

3. *Promote the use of ' accelerative' learning techniques in schools and through special teacher education.*

4. *Develop specific programmes for young people with special educational needs.*

5. *Develop parental education programmes focussed on harnessing parenting skills, to enable families to cope with changing lifestyles.*

(ii) Employment

The Suva Declaration calls for the development of youth employment and training programmes that will enable the young people to participate more fully and meaningfully in both the subsistence and cash economies.

Intervention Strategy

1. *Develop more youth employment and training schemes for young people including those without employable skills that will enable them to participate more fully and meaningfully in both the subsistence and cash economies.*

2. *Involve young people in the development of self-employment initiatives and provide adequate resources to facilitate the implementation of these initiatives teaching them technical, commercial, servicing, and entrepreneurial skills.*

3. *Create structural solutions to foster enabling conditions to promote the participation of young people in the development of the economy.*

(iii) Youth health

There is a major concern with the areas of **sexual health (STD's, teenage pregnancies, sexual abuse), mental health, physical abuse, suicide, abuse of alcohol/tobacco/drugs/etc.**

Intervention Strategy

1. *Strengthen health education and promotional programmes aimed at addressing the above-mentioned health issues at regional and national levels and involve young people in the planning, development and implementation of these programmes.*

2. *Conduct peer education training programmes for young people on understanding sexual behaviour in adolescents; strategies for controlling alcohol and cigarette consumption; prevention of drugs and physical abuse; and coping with anxiety and depression; which will encourage young people to take responsibility for their own health.*

3. *Develop and strengthen appropriate 'youth friendly' health services, sensitive to the health needs of young people in member countries and territories.*

4. *Undertake concrete action which strengthen collaboration across sectors.*

(iv) Environment

There are urgent concerns for the environment and Governments and youth organisations need to promote the concept of sustainable development, in particular though extended efforts in environmental education.

Intervention Strategy

1. *Widen environment education initiatives to teach young people the concept of sustainable development and increase their understanding of environment management so they can make positive contributions to the protection and improvement of their environment.*

2. *Conduct ongoing practical programmes such as clean-up campaigns, tree planting, recycling projects, etc to provide young people with real opportunities to contribute positively to addressing environment issues and concerns.*

(v) Juvenile delinquency

Adolescence is a vulnerable time when antisocial behaviour and some degree of rebellion may surface for a number of different reasons. This can be expected for many adolescents and it applies even in the most integrated and well functioning families.

Intervention Strategy

1. *Introduce practically based solutions to ensure that the young people have a life that is full of purposeful and achievement-oriented programmes that have a realistic and practical basis.*

2. *Provide the widest range of civic, cultural, and recreational activities for young people which promote the development of a healthy self-esteem and a sense of community spirit which include training programmes for young people on problem solving and setting goals, effective communication, boosting creativity.*

3. *Conduct specialist counselling training for youth workers to enable them to provide guidance to at-risk young people and also to facilitate the*

rehabilitation of young offenders and providing them with the necessary chances for reintegration into society.

4. *Conduct more training programmes to assist young people promote and uphold the values of a responsible family life and check the influence of conflicting values which frequently comes with development and modernisation.*

(vi) Promotion of peace

Young people need to be educated in developing and maintaining a culture of peace in the Pacific region. They must serve as peer educators in fostering an atmosphere of compassion, tolerance, and mutual concern and trust.

Intervention Strategy

1. *Organise a regional level Train-the-Trainers programme in collaboration with the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau on how to create and maintain conditions for sustainable peace in the family, the community and society at large.*

2. *Advocate for the inclusion of peace education and conflict resolution skills development and self-control in the curricula of formal and non-formal educational institutions.*

II. PROGRAMME III: YOUTH-LEAD PACIFIKA

In the Pacific region, there are enormous unmet training needs of youth leaders.

Youth-Lead Pacifika focuses on capacity building and skills development to ensure youth leaders and youth organisations can contribute positively toward national development.

Intervention Strategy

1. *design and conduct in-country training programmes for youth leaders in areas such as leadership; management and administration; policy development; organisational behaviour and development; team work, project planning, management and evaluation; self-motivation; personal development and efficiency programmes; managing change; problem solving; effective communication; negotiation; interpersonal skills; etc.*

2. *Design and conduct periodical specialist Train-the-Trainers courses in the above topic areas in order to build up a cadre of trainers in the region..*

3. *Promote the introduction of special educational programmes focussing on skills development to accommodate young people dropping out of the formal education system.*

4. *Promote the concept of exchange programmes or study tours/attachments within the region and beyond to provide youth leaders and*

young people with the opportunity to exchange experiences and learn from each other.

5. *Introduce a regional educational pilot project along the lines of a 'Citizenship Development Programme' for young people with a focus on promoting the spirit of nationalism (national pride), and patriotism (sense of identity). The programme can be in two areas: 1) introducing the concept into the school system (social studies) and 2) conducting special programmes through NGO's for young people. It is also necessary to include the concept in the 'teacher training' courses in member countries.*

III. PROGRAMME IV: PACIFIKA ADVOCACY

PACIFIKA ADVOCACY recognises the important and positive contributions to the development of society made by the private sector, non-governmental organisations which are active within the countries and territories of the region.

This programme will focus on strengthening relationships and promote collaborative activities with the private sector and youth organisations including the Pacific Youth Council; and non-government organisations, churches, regional and international agencies.

IV. PROGRAMME V: INFOSHARE PACIFIKA

INFOSHARE PACIFIKA focuses on regular collection, compilation and dissemination of information on youth development in the region and globally through:

- ongoing promotion of the Pacific Youth Strategy 2005
- continued production of Youthlink newsletter
- Pacific Youth Information Network (PYIN)
- Linking Youth Homepage with PIDP and other organisations

V. PROGRAMME VI: PACIFIKA EMPOWERMENT

(i) *The 'Small Island States Fund'*

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community has established the Small Island States Fund which is managed by the Youth Development Adviser. The Fund provides technical assistance, training and other services as required by the SPC's small island members. The Fund became operational in 1998 and Island members, traditional and non-traditional donors are invited to contribute to the corpus of the Fund on a continuing basis to ensure it's sustainability.

The 12 member states and territories to be given access to the Fund include: **Pitcairn Island, Tokelau, Niue, Tuvalu, Wallis and Futuna, Cook Islands, Nauru, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kir bati, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas.**

An area of priority expressed by small island members is with skills training of young people. In this context, "skills" are envisaged in a very broad way-fishing, boats, gardening, sports, arts/crafts, trades, small business, bookkeeping and so on. This is training designed to give underemployed young people a place in the community. This will guarantee that the Small Island States Fund is being focussed on an area of need for young people.

(ii) ***Promote and support youth entrepreneurial initiatives***

In the Pacific, there are many examples of successful youth initiated businesses. This programme is aimed at promoting self-employment initiatives for young people as an alternative means of employment by developing their entrepreneurial skills, thereby increasing their ability to participate in economic activities.

And noting that agreement was reached between all regional, international non-government and donors agencies represented at the Conference that they will collaborate more closely with each other and work together to assist youth development in the region. The organisations represented being Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, Sasakawa Peace Foundation - Sasakawa Pacific Islands Nations Funds (SPINF), Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP), ESCAP, World Assembly of Youth (WAY), United States Peace Corps, PIDP, PYC, and other similar stakeholders.

Agreed that the Pacific Youth Resource Bureau of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community:

- serve as the focal point for Youth Advocacy and the coordination, implementation, monitoring and review of the PYS2005
- maintain strong collaboration with all other regional and international agencies who have interest in youth development during its implementation and,
- facilitate integration of youth concerns in all sectoral programmes of the SPC,

We undertake to commend this strategy to our governments as a framework for addressing youth development challenges in our respective countries and territories, and to advocate for resources to enable implementation of the strategy at country and regional level.

And hereby call upon communities, churches, NGOs, governments, donors, regional and international agencies to make a concerted effort towards the implementation of this Strategy.

Portuguese Republic

World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth

Lisbon, Portugal
8-12 August 1998

United Nations

WCMRY/1998/20
22 July 1998

Original: English

FIFTH CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUTH, BUCHAREST, 27-29 APRIL 1998

Note by the Secretariat

The Conference secretariat has the honour to circulate to Conference partipants, as received and in the language of submission only, the attached report of the Fifth Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Youth, which was held from 27 to 29 May 1998 at Bucharest, Romania.

98-21521

Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe

Strasbourg, 18 May 1998

MJN-5 (98) 5

5TH CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUTH

Bucharest, 27-29 April 1998

DRAFT REPORT

The Fifth Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth was held in Bucharest from 27 to 29 April 1998 at the invitation of the Romanian Government, which had made this proposal in Luxembourg at the informal meeting in May 1995.

All the Contracting Parties to the European Cultural Convention – with the exception of Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Liechtenstein, San Marino and Monaco, which had apologised for their absence – were represented. Canada attended as an observer.

The Committee of Ministers was represented by the Chair of the Rapporteur Group on Youth Affairs, the Parliamentary Assembly by the Vice-Chair and several members of the Sub-Committee on Youth and Sport of the Committee on Culture and Education and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe by a member of the Youth Sub-Group.

The conference was also attended by the Chairs of the Governing Board and the Advisory Committee of the European Youth Centres (EYCs) and European Youth Foundation (EYF).

The European Commission was represented by Mr Dibelius, Director at Directorate-General XXII, and Ms Fogg, the European Union representative in Romania.

UNESCO had sent two observers. The European Youth Forum was represented by its President and Vice-President accompanied by a delegation of thirty-five young people.

The full list of participants is reproduced in Appendix 1.

The theme of the conference was: "Young people: active citizens in a future Europe".

In his opening speech, the President of Romania, Mr Constantinescu, urged the participants to view young people as a current, not just a future, social force, capable of finding solutions to the problems facing them and, what was more, implementing those solutions, and not as a problem. He reminded the participants that it was important to see young people's participation in society as an indisputable right, and their inherent rights as an integral part of human rights while stressing the urgent need to combat social exclusion, by providing ever more young people with the means, motivation and capacity to build and drive "a train of hope" and a train of certainty" in a society that reflected the needs and aspirations of their generation.

The Secretary General, after thanking the Romanian authorities for organising the conference and the Youth Director for the services rendered to the Organisation, spoke of the difficulties facing young people today, while also making the point that the role of ministers responsible for youth was not an easy one given that their responsibilities outweighed their powers, which tended to be shared with other ministries such as education, labour or housing. The introduction of an integrated youth policy required broad intersectoral co-operation and a similar approach must be adopted at European level.

The Secretary General also stressed the need to involve young people in all areas affecting them, by encouraging participation. He referred here to the partnership pursued between youth organisations and governmental representatives in the context of the Council of Europe's youth activities. After reporting on the work done in this sector at both governmental and non-governmental level, he spoke about the prospects for the future and reminded the conference of the importance attached by the Second Summit of Heads of State and Government to education for citizenship, thus echoing the concerns of the ministers responsible for youth, who had chosen to focus their conference proceedings on the subject of active youth participation in the process of European integration.

On a proposal by France, Mr Crin Antonescu, the Romanian Minister responsible for Youth and Sport, was elected Chair of the conference. The Luxembourgeois and Greek Ministers, Mr Alex Bodry and Mr Ioanis Antiopoulos, nominated by Hungary and Slovenia respectively, were elected Vice-Chairs.

At the request of Portugal, an item was added to the agenda (Appendix 2) on the World Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth, due to be held in Lisbon in August of that year.

During the opening session, the conference heard speeches by Mr Taurantas, the Lithuanian Ambassador to the Council of Europe and Chair of the Rapporteur Group on Youth Affairs, Ms Plechata, member of the Czech parliamentary delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Vice-Chair of the Sub-Committee on Youth and Sport and Mr Venturini, member of the Youth Sub-Group of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe. The speakers outlined the activities pursued in the youth field in their respective areas of responsibility and underlined the importance of co-management, a novel and unique way of involving young people in the decision-making process in the Council of Europe's youth sector. In the wake of the changes which had occurred in central and eastern Europe, they emphasised how important it was for young people in that part of Europe to have access to EYC/EYF activities in order to develop democratic, pluralist youth structures.

Mr Taurantas and Ms Plechata further spoke of the need to adapt youth structures to Europe's changing society by making them more flexible and accessible to new partners. Finally, Ms Plechata raised the issue of youth sector funding, and in particular the funding of the European Youth Foundation. She said that in order for the sector to function more effectively, such a problem must be resolved and proposed that contributions to the Foundation be made compulsory in future.

***

Mr Bodry, the Luxembourgeois Minister responsible for Youth and Vice-Chairperson of the conference, began his account of the plenary session of 27 April with an appraisal of the work done by the Council of Europe's youth sector since the Vienna Conference and the informal meeting in Luxembourg. He presented an overview of the results achieved and the progress made at governmental level in the areas of youth mobility, participation and information and confirmed the growth in EYC/EYF activities, particularly following the enlargement of the Council of Europe. He noted in passing that the activities pursued by the governmental sector and by the non-governmental sector had themes in common. This reflected the interaction which existed between the two sectors.

He stressed the need to continue with the efforts to increase youth mobility in Europe and urged the representatives of states wishing to sign the Convention on Transnational Long-Term Voluntary Service to take the necessary steps to carry this project through and so lend fresh impetus to voluntary service in Europe. He also noted the importance of continuing to review national youth policies in order to take stock of any developments therein and of introducing comprehensive, integrated youth policies in order to define the common principles of a comprehensive, integrated European youth policy. However, he stressed that this exercise, to be efficient, should pinpoint the positive as well as the negative effects of the projects carried out in this field.

The minister concluded his speech by referring to the future development of the sector, which must adapt to the new realities of youth work and provide alternative responses to young people's expectations, in such a way as to marry the Council of Europe's objectives and priorities as defined by the Second Summit with the achievements of the intergovernmental sector and the priority themes of the work done in the European Youth Centres and European Youth Foundation. The Final Declaration of this conference established working objectives for the intergovernmental sector which echoed these concerns, namely youth participation and active democratic citizenship, non-formal education and integration into society and enhanced social cohesion.

He recommended firstly that these objectives be addressed within the framework of a closer partnership between everyone involved in the youth sector in order to develop, as far as possible, comprehensive projects, and secondly that a fully-fledged intersectoral youth policy be instituted within the Council of Europe, under the auspices of the Youth Directorate, in order to develop a European model for a comprehensive, integrated policy. This intersectoral approach should also be accompanied by greater co-operation with other international intergovernmental organisations, particularly the European Union, and, to this end, he suggested setting up a youth observatory, as a joint structure shared by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Mr Antonescu, the Romanian Minister responsible for Youth and Sport, introduced the draft Final Declaration, the text of which is attached to this report, submitted to the conference for adoption and presented the proceedings of the Conference.

The discussions were then initiated by Mr Anthopoulos, the Greek Deputy Minister of Education and Vice-Chair of the conference, who said that, in the current state of crisis, young people constituted the most vulnerable group; hence the urgent need to find suitable ways of integrating them into society and encouraging them to participate in community life as active citizens. To this end, he proposed implementing integrated youth policies which would pave the way for equal opportunities and developing, at every level, youth participation structures which would treat them as full partners in the decision-making process.

He stressed the importance, in this context, of developing regional co-operation, based on common interests, conducive to the development of such policies. These regional co-operation arrangements could be reviewed within the Council of Europe in order to assess the progress made and identify common courses of action. He informed the conference that in March his country had hosted the Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth in the Countries of South-Eastern Europe. The minister then concluded his speech with an offer from the Government of Greece to host the 6th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth in due time.

During the discussions, many speakers emphasised the need to encourage participation in all its forms and said that the fight against youth unemployment and social exclusion and the search for solutions within the framework of intersectoral policies were matters of priority. The representatives of some countries, such as Hungary, Lithuania, Estonia, Cyprus or Slovenia, pointed out that they had followed the Council of Europe's example and set up co-management structures in an effort to involve young people and their organisations in youth policy-making. Other countries, such as Switzerland and France, were encouraging the growth of various youth participation structures (eg youth parliaments, permanent youth council) or, like Bulgaria, seeking to promote the European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Municipal and Regional Life (Llangollen Charter) or, like Croatia, providing aid to encourage the participation of organisations representing young people from minority groups or young disabled people.

Still other delegates, such as Mr Kivistö (Finland) or Mr Ostini, representative of the "Education for Citizenship" Project Group of the Cultural Co-operation Council, felt that education for citizenship was a way of fostering participation and that it was important to develop this activity within the Council of Europe as part of an intersectoral approach. Mr Mignon, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly, presented his project on the setting-up of a Youth Parliamentary Assembly for the 50th Anniversary of the Council of Europe.

The Hungarian State Secretary, Mr Goncz, underlined the importance of genuine participation, where young people were not simply passive observers. Similarly, Mr Tschudi, a member of the Basel Regierungsrat, pointed out that while participation had been on the agenda since the first ministerial conference – and while welcoming the pioneering role which the Council of Europe had played in this area – it was a long and complex process which needed to be constantly assessed and reviewed in the light of changes in the situation of young people. This opinion was shared by Ms Buffet, the French Minister responsible for Youth and Sport, who said that in order for there to be any kind of youth participation and involvement in civic life, one must first recognise the uniqueness of young people's chosen

paths in life, their identities and their right to participate in society. Mr Bryntesson (Sweden) expressed the wish that the Youth Directorate should continue its work in the field of youth participation, which was the cornerstone of its policy. The chairpersons of the Governing Board and the Advisory Committee of the European Youth Centres and the European Youth Foundation regretted that, on one hand, the Final Declaration of the Conference did not insist on the need to maintain and reinforce the co-management within the Youth Directorate, and that on the other hand it was not given the necessary and adequate budgetary resources for a satisfactory implementation of its programmes.

Youth unemployment and social exclusion were another focal point of the discussions. The representatives of Switzerland, Italy, the Holy See and Estonia drew attention to this worrying problem which affected a growing number of young people in Europe's societies and the need to find solutions within the context of intersectoral youth policies. The Slovenian Minister, Mr Gaber, raised this issue in his speech, saying that social exclusion was not something which was confined to young people who had failed their exams and joined the ranks of the unemployed, but that it also affected the poor, the homeless, migrants, refugees, members of the various minorities and disabled people. In his view, the solution lay not just in improving and adapting education, but also in acknowledging the skills acquired from non-formal education, which helped to make young people more employable. He welcomed, furthermore, the moves made by the Council of Europe towards developing an intersectoral, co-operative approach to these issues, because a problem as complex as social exclusion among young people could not be tackled through youth policy alone.

Many speakers likewise took the view that active youth participation was a way of combating exclusion. Ms Holzer (Austria) also suggested developing other projects such as the mediation, as a means of dealing with various types of conflict, eg conflicts at school, within families, between different ethnic groups or involving young offenders, etc, while suggesting various approaches – peer group education, conflict management, mediation – which could be encouraged at both national and European level. For the Estonian Minister of Youth, Mr Klaassen, exclusion was also very often aggravated by the lack of information, and that it was urgent to help young people to acceed to information, in particular to new technologies and to acquire the necessary competences in order to use them in a good way.

Like the Estonian Minister, Ms Buffet stressed the need to attach greater importance to non-formal education and in particular to any experience acquired through associative life, and to acknowledge this experience (as a component of education in its own right) in school education or vocational training. Against this background, she also emphasised the importance of promoting young people's rights, such as the right to express one's views, the right to information, education and training, and social rights such as access to healthcare or housing, which required an intersectoral approach. Ms Novikova, Chairperson of the State Committee on Youth of the Russian Federation also informed the participants of the drafting of a bill on youth, some provisions of which should be devoted to the protection of youth rights. The Italian representative spoke on this subject, expressing support for the idea of compiling catalogues of young people's rights at both national and European level.

The participants in the discussion also spoke about the need to continue working in areas such as the fight against racism (Germany, Italy, Cyprus), access to information and new technologies (Finland, France, Switzerland) and the development of voluntary service (Ukraine, Switzerland). On this last point, some speakers expressed regret at the fact that the

Convention on Transnational Long-Term Voluntary Service had not been opened for signature at the conference and urged their colleagues to take the necessary steps to bring this project to a successful conclusion. The Chairperson of the State Committee on Youth of the Russian Federation also stressed the necessity to encourage youth mobility in Europe, which is essential for the promotion of international co-operation in the youth field.

Another point which attracted the participants' attention was regional co-operation. In addition to the Greek initiative, the Swedish representative informed the participants about the Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth in the Baltic Regions, while the Azerbaijani representative told them about the formation of a club of ministers responsible for youth in the former Soviet republics. The Swiss representative expressed support for the idea of developing the network of decentralised centres as recommended by the Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth in Vienna in 1993. In this context, the ministers of the three Caucasian states undertook, in a signed declaration (Appendix 3), to set up a Transcaucasian youth centre which would operate along the lines of the European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest.

The assessment of national policies, as it has begun at the Youth Directorate, was felt by many speakers to be an extremely useful method of sharing experience on a routine basis and defining European standards for a comprehensive, integrated youth policy. They expressed the wish that it should continue and be developed further and encouraged countries which had not yet tried it to do so. On this matter, the representative of the Russian Federation informed the participants that her country was ready to be involved in this process.

Finally, the necessity to develop and reinforce the co-operation of the youth sector with other intergovernmental international organisations, especially with the European Union, was recognised as essential and necessary in order to improve synergies, with the hope of harmonising the objectives. This matter was raised by the UNESCO representative, who said that the priorities defined in the Final Declaration were akin to those of her own organisation and that she hoped to see a concrete proposal for co-operation geared to common objectives before long. The representative of the Commission of the European Communities, Mr Dibelius, after outlining the projects already run in association with the Youth Directorate, in particular the training schemes, raised the possibility of further co-operation in areas such as youth mobility or information. He also underlined the interest taken by the Commission in the draft Convention on Transnational Long-Term Voluntary Service, which could help resolve some of the legal and administrative problems encountered by the Commission in setting up its own voluntary service project.

Finally, Mr Antonescu pinpointed the items corresponding to priorities of a global and integrated youth policy, such as participation, education to citizenship, the recognition of the competences acquired through non-formal education, information, mobility, the fight against racism, youth rights promotion, and stressed a number of proposals for action:

- lower the age at which young people may vote: collect and publish, on a regular basis, national statistics on the number of young members of local, regional and national parliaments (Slovenia)

- develop youth participation structures designed to involve as many young people as possible (France)

- provide training for young people and civil servants working in youth participation structures (Lithuania)

- promote experiments in the field of education for citizenship and, to this end, institute a Council of Europe award for innovative "civic education projects", which would be listed in a data bank administered by the Youth Directorate and accessible via the Internet (Finland)

- compile catalogues of young people's rights at national and European level (Italy)

- introduce pilot projects to field-test intersectoral working procedures with a view to introducing comprehensive, integrated youth policies (Finland)

- assess knowledge, skills and experience acquired from non-formal education and ensure that these achievements receive due credit in the education system and labour markets (Finland, France)

- look at how the standards established by the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy are applied in national policies (Hungary).

The minister concluded his intervention, hoping that all these proposals could be examined carefully at European and national levels.

The Conference continued with three round tables on the following themes "participation, democracy and civil society", "solidarity, fight against social exclusion" and "Human rights, youth rights" which completed the debate held in plenary session.

During the closing session, participants heard the conclusions of these round tables, presented respectively by Mr Balavoine (France), Bryntesson (Sweden) and Taliadoros (Cyprus). The Conference then adopted unanimously the draft Final Declaration presented by the Chairman of the Conference. This Declaration and the conclusions of the round tables are appended to the present report. On proposal the chairmanship, the Conference decided to send this declaration to the Baltic Sea Youth Minister Conference which will be held in Visby (Sweden) on 5 and 6 June 1998 and to the World Youth Minister Conference which will be held in Lisbon from 8 to 12 August 1998. The participants were informed by Mr Fontes, Youth Secretary of State of Portugal on the state of preparation of this event organised jointly by the Portuguese Government and the UN.

During his closing speech, Mr Antonescu expressed his satisfaction for the fruitful and positive results of the conference and recalled all the proposals which should encourage the implementation of global and integrated youth policies at European and national levels. However, he regretted that it had not been the occasion to launch a Charter on youth rights, and hoped that this project could be realised for the next Conference. He thanked the Greek authorities for their invitation to organise the conference in Athens in four years time.

All the participants warmly thanked the Romanian authorities and the staff of the Ministry of Youth and Sport for the organisation of the Conference. Finally, they thanked the Youth Director, for whom it was the last participation at a conference due to his retirement, for the services given to the youth policy in Europe.

A youth event was held at the conference venue, organised jointly by the European Youth Forum and the Romanian youth organisations, showing in particular an exhibition on youth orga nisations' achievements.

Portuguese Republic

World Conference of Ministers
Responsible for Youth

Lisbon, Portugal
8-12 August 1998

United Nations

WCMRY/1998/21
22 July 1998

Original: English

COMMONWEALTH YOUTH MINISTERS MEETING, HELD AT KUALA LUMPUR FROM 28 TO 30 MAY 1998

Note by the Secretariat

The Conference secretariat has the honour to circulate to Conference partipants, as received and in the language of submission only, the attached conclusions and recommendations of the Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting, which was held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 28 to 30 June 1998.

COMMONWEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
AUSTRALIA
THE BAHAMAS
BANGLADESH
BARBADOS
BELIZE
BOTSWANA
BRITAIN
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
CAMEROON
CANADA
CYPRUS
DOMINICA
FIJI
THE GAMBIA
GHANA
GRENADA
GUYANA
INDIA
JAMAICA
KENYA
KIRIBATI
LESOTHO
MALAWI
MALAYSIA
MALDIVES
MALTA
MAURITIUS
MOZAMBIQUE
NAMIBIA
NAURU
NEW ZEALAND
NIGERIA*
PAKISTAN
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
ST KITTS AND NEVIS
ST LUCIA
ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
SAMOA
SEYCHELLES
SIERRA LEONE
SINGAPORE
SOLOMON ISLANDS
SOUTH AFRICA
SRI LANKA
SWAZILAND
TANZANIA
TONGA
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
TUVALU
UGANDA
VANUATU
ZAMBIA
ZIMBABWE

98/35

2 June 1998

Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 28-30 May 1998

Conclusions and Recommendations

Commonwealth Youth Ministers met in Kuala Lumpur on 28-30 May 1998. Forty-four countries, of which 36 were represented by Ministers, participated in the Meeting. Representatives of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), the CHOGM Committee on Co-operation through Sport (CCCS), Commonwealth Foundation, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, UN Youth Unit, and the Portuguese Government participated as observers. The Hon Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhyiddin bin Haji Mohd Yassin, Minister of Youth and Sports of Malaysia chaired the Meeting.

2. Ministers welcomed the occasion of their Meeting as providing an opportunity for a valuable exchange of national experiences in the development of young people. They reviewed the implementation of the work programme agreed by them at their last meeting in Port of Spain in 1995, discussed a work plan for the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) to the year 2000, and considered the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment. The following are their conclusions and recommendations.

Plan of Work to the Year 2000

3. Ministers commended the achievements of the Commonwealth Youth Programme since 1995 in the three interrelated strategic areas of National Youth Policy Development, Human Resource Development and Youth Empowerment.

They noted that 33 member countries either had or were in the process of formulating, revising and implementing national youth policies, and that many other member countries were planning to develop a national youth policy. They called on the Commonwealth Secretariat to continue to assist member countries in this area. They noted the impressive progress made in the development of a pan-Commonwealth distance education programme for youth-in-development workers, in collaboration with the COL and sixteen other partner institutions in the Commonwealth. They welcomed the launch of a pilot cycle, from which 2,000 participants would initially benefit by the year 2000. They noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the introduction of the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative (CYCI), and its adoption as a practical model for poverty alleviation among young people. They called on the Secretariat to promote this further through the advocacy of a Microcredit Management System (McMS).

Youth Empowerment

4. Ministers discussed 'Youth Empowerment for the New Millennium' as their special theme. They welcomed the growing opportunities for young people and their achievements in today's world; at the same time they recognised that much potential was yet to be realised. In many countries, young people continued to suffer from inadequate access to education, health facilities and opportunities for productive employment; and from marginalisation, social exclusion and loss of self-esteem. Ministers believed that young people needed to develop their potential fully, enhance their self-esteem, and make a positive contribution to the development of their societies and cultures, involving themselves to the full in the economic, social and political environment in which they lived. Young people themselves were the best resource for promoting their development. Ministers noted the range of activity undertaken by the Commonwealth in promoting youth empowerment since 1995: advocacy of youth rights as human rights, training young people in conflict resolution and prevention skills, and enabling young people to deal with health challenges including HIV/AIDS, sexual reproductive health and drug and substance abuse. They also welcomed the involvement of young people in Commonwealth governance processes. They encouraged the Secretariat to build on these achievements.

5. Ministers welcomed the work undertaken by the Secretariat in combating the sexual exploitation of children and called on Commonwealth countries to strengthen their measures to counter it.

6. Ministers recognised that governments need to play an active role in creating the enabling conditions for the empowerment of young people. In this context, they considered a Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment to the year 2005 prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of consultation across the Commonwealth, which set out four basic principles of youth empowerment as described in paragraph 3.1 of the Plan of Action. This offered a range of policy options from which governments can choose the most appropriate actions for their own countries. They included:

- the development and implementation of measures to promote the participation of young people in the economy;
- measures to strengthen social support systems and collaboration between key stakeholders in youth empowerment;
- the development and strengthening of youth ministries, national youth policies and legislative and/or administrative frameworks impacting on youth affairs;
- the promotion of positive role models and self-images to foster a sense of responsibility and self-esteem in young people;
- the promotion of participation by young people, particularly those in vulnerable circumstances, in decision-making at appropriate levels including communities and local, provincial and national governments;
- affirmative and direct action to ensure gender equity and equality of treatment and outcomes for young people in special circumstances;
- the promotion of a democratic, stable and peaceful environment in which the rights of young people are fully implemented;
- action for the development and maintenance of human resource and intellectual capital;
- measures to improve young people's access to information and communications technology; and
- the encouragement of youth participation in sporting and cultural activities as a means of promoting positive values and advancing human development.

7. Ministers endorsed the policy framework represented by the Plan as a guide for action by Commonwealth governments. They requested the Secretariat to support and complement the efforts of member governments through the provision of advice and technical assistance to governments, and in other ways as identified in the Plan of Action. They called on all the stakeholders - governments, NGOs and other constituents of civil society, the private sector, intergovernmental organisations, educational and other institutions and young women and men - to collaborate in youth empowerment. They called on the Secretariat to monitor and evaluate, in consultation with member governments and the Youth Caucus, progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action, and report to their next meeting. In this context, they welcomed the proposal by the Secretariat to develop a Youth Development Index using specific performance indicators.

Partnerships for Youth Development

8. Ministers recognised the importance of forging partnerships in preventing the marginalisation and social exclusion of youth in society, and commended the Commonwealth programmes which promoted such partnerships in the fields of education, health, micro-credit and sport. They asked the Secretariat to continue to promote such partnerships, drawing on the rich networks and relationships in the Commonwealth. Ministers called on Commonwealth governments to develop their youth empowerment

policies in such a way as to promote measures to eliminate poverty and marginalisation. The targets for this action should be appropriate and achievable.

9. Ministers welcomed the proposal to establish a Commonwealth Youth Volunteer Scheme to enable young women and men to spend time in each other's country undertaking voluntary work in promoting projects which contribute to social and economic programmes. They requested the Secretary-General to examine all aspects of the proposal including how it might build on other schemes, with an estimation of costs, and bring it to governments for their further consideration.

Resources

10. In commending the continuing great value of the Commonwealth Youth Programme, Ministers called on all member governments to provide the resources necessary to fulfil the programme of work contained in the Strategic Plan for 1998-2000, subject to normal public expenditure limitations. They requested the Secretary-General to explore the scope for enhancing the effectiveness of the programmes through increased efficiency and reductions in overhead costs, and the streamlining of governance and administrative arrangements currently applicable to the programme. They encouraged the Secretariat to develop partnerships with the private and voluntary sectors where appropriate.

Ministerial Review Group

11. Ministers agreed to establish a ministerial group to review the changing environment for the development and empowerment of young people and, in the light of this, identify new strategic priorities for the CYP to enable it to provide effective support to member governments as the Commonwealth enters the new Millennium; and to examine existing resources, including the ratio of programme to administration costs, and the instruments and procedures for the delivery of the programme. The group will comprise Ministers of Youth of The Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Britain, Canada, Fiji, Malaysia, New Zealand, Seychelles, South Africa, and a representative of the Youth Caucus. The group will make its recommendations before the next meeting of Commonwealth Youth Ministers.

Commonwealth Games and Sport

12. Ministers recognised the valuable role that sport could play in developing the capacities of young women and men and in the contribution it can make to the promotion of peace and conflict resolution. In this context, they welcomed a report from the CHOGM Committee on Co-operation through Sport (CCCS) and expressed support for its future plans of action, particularly the vital role of sport in enabling young people to develop their full potential. Ministers expressed strong support for the CCCS and recommended that CHOGM

consider the renewal of its mandate in 1999. They also welcomed the proposals by the Secretariat to work with the CCCS in developing methodologies for use by national governments in formulating national sports policies.

13. Ministers welcomed the proposal that a scheme of Commonwealth sports scholarships and bursaries be established to enable sports persons to receive training in countries which have particular expertise in specified areas of sports and games; and to enable experienced Commonwealth sports trainers and coaches to spend time in member countries to train young women and men. They requested the Secretary-General to examine these proposals with due regard to other priorities and bring them to governments for their further consideration.

14. Ministers looked forward to wide participation by member countries in the Commonwealth Games in September 1998 and expressed appreciation to Malaysia, their host.

Commonwealth Youth Forum

15. Ministers welcomed the involvement of young people themselves in the preparation of the Plan of Action and the holding of a Pan-Commonwealth Youth Forum in the week prior to their Meeting. The Youth Caucus reported on behalf of the Pan-Commonwealth Youth Forum, highlighting the challenges and opportunities for young people in the Commonwealth and offering recommendations for ways in which the CYP could tackle these challenges and improve its effectiveness. Ministers encouraged the Secretariat to continue to involve young people at every level.

Commonwealth Youth Service Awards

16. Ministers expressed satisfaction at the successful continuation of the Commonwealth Youth Service Awards scheme, and its extension to regional levels. They believed that it played a valuable role in promoting positive images of young women and men and welcomed the contribution it can make in promoting Commonwealth values of peace, democracy, human rights and equality.

Next Meeting

17. Ministers expressed their warm appreciation to the Government and people of Malaysia for hosting their Meeting. They noted the interest of the South Pacific in hosting their next Meeting in 2000. Governments would be advised of the location in due course.

Commonwealth Secretariat
Kuala Lumpur Hilton
30 May 1998

Message to Commonwealth Heads of Government from the Meeting of Commonwealth Ministers Responsible for Youth Affairs 28-30 May 1998, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

We the Commonwealth Ministers responsible for Youth Affairs affirm our commitment to a world that recognises the importance and the potential of young women and men in the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth has a young population; in many of our countries those under thirty comprise over sixty per cent of the population. The full participation of young men and women in all aspects of economic, social and political life of our countries is critical both for national development and the future success and prosperity of the Commonwealth.

At our Meeting we discussed 'Youth Empowerment for the New Millennium' as a special theme. We welcomed the growing opportunities for young people and their achievements in today's world; at the same time we recognised that much of their potential is yet to be realised. In many countries young people continue to suffer from inadequate access to education and health facilities, opportunities for productive employment, from marginalisation, social exclusion and loss of self-esteem. We believe that young people need to develop their full potential, enhance their self-esteem and make a positive contribution to the development of their societies and cultures; and involve themselves fully in the economic, social and political environment in which they live; and that young people themselves are the best resource for promoting their development.

We recognise that governments need to play an active role in creating the enabling conditions for the empowerment of young people. In this context, we considered a Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment to the year 2005. The Plan of Action sets out some basic principles of youth empowerment, and offers a range of policy options from which governments can choose the most appropriate actions reflecting conditions in their own countries.

We endorsed the policy framework represented by the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment as a guide for action by governments and other stakeholders, and by the Commonwealth Secretariat. We are requesting the Secretary-General to present the Plan of Action to you in the hope and expectation that it will receive your support.

Commonwealth Secretariat
Kuala Lumpur Hilton
Malaysia
30 May 1998

Portuguese Republic

World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth

Lisbon, Portugal
8-12 August 1998

United Nations

WCMRY/1998/22
22 July 1998

Original: English

SECOND ASIA-PACIFIC INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUTH, HELD AT BANGKOK FROM 1 TO 5 JUNE 1998

Note by the Secretariat

The Conference secretariat has the honour to circulate to Conference partipants, as received and in the language of submission only, the attached Asia-Pacific Position for the Lisbon World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, as adopted at the Second Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth, held at Bangkok from 1 to 5 June.

98-21523

Asia-Pacific Position for the Lisbon World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth

The Asia-Pacific Position for the Lisbon World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth was adopted by the Second Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth, convened by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, from 1 to 5 June 1998 in Bangkok, as a regional preparatory activity for the Lisbon World Conference. The Meeting was co-sponsored by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The Asia-Pacific Position is derived from the draft Lisbon Declaration resulting from the Second International Consultations in preparation for the Lisbon World Conference.

The changes proposed to the original draft Lisbon Declaration are indicated in brackets by paragraph numbers. New additions suggested for incorporation in the draft Lisbon Declaration are also indicated in brackets.

United Nations
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Asia-Pacific Position for the Lisbon World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth

We, the Governments participating in the Second Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth, convened by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, from 1 to 5 June 1998 in Bangkok,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, in which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which called for regional conferences for youth affairs to be convened under the aegis of the United Nations,

Recalling also ESCAP resolution 50/7 of 13 April 1994, adopting the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, as revised in 1994, in which youth are identified as a priority target group for human resources development programmes,

Recalling further ESCAP resolution 52/4 of 24 April 1996, in which the Commission called upon members and associate member governments to promote human resources development among youth in Asia and the Pacific by integrating the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond and its ten priority areas, namely, education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure time activities, girls and young women, and full and participation of youth in the life of society and decision making, into their national youth policies, plans and programmes,

Recalling further the Declaration and Agenda for Action adopted at the first World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Stockholm, August 1996), which was endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its 52nd session in November 1997, as well as ESCAP resolution 53/4 of 30 April 1997, in which the Commission called upon member and associate member governments to act towards the elimination of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth in Asia and the Pacific,

Acknowledging the United Nations definition of youth as the age cohort of 15 to 24 years, as indicated in the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000,

2 *Considering* that 60 per cent of the world youth population or over 600 million youth reside in the Asian and Pacific region,

Noting with concern the situation of youth in Asia and the Pacific, the majority of whom live in poverty, as well as the special difficulties experienced by different groups of young people, such as those involved or affected by substance abuse, violence, neglect, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, conflicts, armed or otherwise; refugees and other migrant young people; displaced and parentless young people; young people living with disabilities; indigenous youth; young offenders; and other disadvantaged and marginalized young people,

Recognizing that youth are a positive force in society, and a human resource with enormous potential for contributing to development and the advancement of societies,

Welcoming the convening of the First World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, to be hosted by the Government of Portugal in cooperation with the United Nations, in Lisbon from 8 to 12 August 1998,

We, therefore, adopt the Asia-Pacific Position for the Lisbon World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and commit ourselves to:

National youth policies *(paras. 1 to 5 of the draft Lisbon Declaration)*

1. Ensuring that national youth policy formulation and implementation processes are accorded commitment from the highest political levels, including the provision of adequate levels of resources; *(new paragraph)*

2. Developing integrated national youth policies and action plans to implement the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (WPAY), thus improving the quality of life of young men and young women for their own development and their active participation in society; *(para. 1, revised)*

3. Formulating the necessary policies and programmes of both an intersectoral and multi-sectoral nature by the year 2000, as recommended by WPAY, while taking into account national priorities, realities and limitations arising from different economic, social and cultural development contexts; *(para. 2, revised)*

4. Reviewing the situation of youth and their needs and incorporating young people's own assessment of priorities; *(new paragraph)*

5. Ensuring that young men and young women actively contribute to the formulation, implementation and evaluation of national youth policies and action plans; *(new paragraph)*

6. Strengthening responsible partnerships among all key stakeholders including young women and young men, their families, governments, international agencies, youth organizations and other NGOs, educational institutions, civil society, the business sector and media in

order to create synergies to better address youth potentials and problems both at national and local levels; *(paras. 3 and 4, merged and revised)*

7. Developing measurable, time-bound strategic plans of action and indicators to create a common basis for national and regional evaluation of the implementation of national youth policies and action plans; *(para. 5, revised)*

8. Ensuring the mainstreaming of youth policy into national development policies and initiatives; *(new paragraph)*

9. Supporting regional and international exchange of best practices in youth policy formulation, implementation and evaluation, and the provision of appropriate development tools and technical assistance. *(new paragraph)*

Participation *(paras. 6 to 9 of the draft Lisbon Declaration)*

10. Enabling active participation of youth in the life of society and in decision making processes through the improvement and/or creation of conducive mechanisms and ensuring that the necessary gender-sensitive measures are taken to attain equal access and participation by young women and young men; *(para 6, revised)*

11. Developing the capacity of young people through the empowerment of formal and informal coalitions and networks of youth; *(new paragraph)*

12. Upholding and reinforcing policies that encourage independent and democratic forms of youth organizations and support freedom of association and expression to ensure the full contribution of youth to society; *(para 7, revised)*

13. Undertaking special efforts to reach young people with special concerns and provide them with the means and the motivation to contribute effectively in their societies, including young people living with disabilities, young refugees, displaced and parentless youth, indigenous youth, juvenile delinquents, street youth, young people suffering from HIV/AIDS, homelessness and joblessness, and other disadvantaged and marginalized youth; *(paras. 8 and 9, merged and revised)*

14. Creating structures and supporting experiences which enhance leadership development skills and opportunities for young men and young women; *(new paragraph)*

15. Enhancing the role of youth organizations in the planning, implementation and evaluation of national development plans and programmes; *(new paragraph)*

16. Advocating the need for the implementation of statutory requirements to ensure participation of young men and young women in decision-making mechanisms and processes, especially in those affecting youth policies and programmes; *(new paragraph)*

17. Encouraging youth volunteerism as an important form of youth participation; *(new paragraph)*

18. Promoting the development of a youth participation index and national and international mechanisms for its periodic evaluation. *(new paragraph)*

Development *(paras. 10 to 13 of the draft Lisbon Declaration)*

19. Investing in human resources development for youth to ensure their active participation in local, national and international development for their own benefit and that of society; *(para. 11, revised)*

20. Ensuring actions focusing on the alleviation of poverty, which is important for all development initiatives for youth; *(new paragraph)*

21. Ensuring gender-sensitive development which includes a focus on both increasing young women's participation as well as integrating gender concerns into youth development initiatives; *(new paragraph)*

22. Ensuring access for young women and young men to economic resources including land, credit, technologies and information as a necessary condition for relevant and effective national development; *(para. 10, revised)*

23. Enhancing the opportunities and development resources of young people living within rural and remote communities; *(new paragraph)*

24. Responding to the fundamental needs of young people for safe, healthy and secure living conditions, including shelter and freedom from fear of physical and psychological abuse in the family, school system and work place; *(para. 12, revised)*

25. Fostering awareness and commitment among young people to sustainable development principles and practices, especially in regard to environmental protection and supporting the actions of young people in promoting those principles; *(para. 13, revised)*

26. Encouraging bilateral, regional and international cooperation to create an enabling environment at the national and international levels in order to ensure the full participation of young people in economic and social development. *(new paragraph)*

Peace *(para. 14 of the draft Lisbon Declaration)*

27. Ensuring that young men and young women live within an environment free from threat, conflict, violence and exploitation, including violence in all forms of media; *(new paragraph)*

28. Strengthening the involvement of youth and youth organizations in peace-building, disarmament and conflict resolution; *(part of para. 14, revised)*

29. Enhancing the role of youth and youth organizations in the promotion of intercultural learning, tolerance, human rights education and democracy in order to promote mutual understanding and respect for cultural, ethnic and religious diversity, responsibility, solidarity and international cooperation; *(part of para. 14, revised)*

30. Preventing the participation, involvement and mobilization of adolescents in armed conflict and other hostilities. *(new paragraph)*

Education *(paras. 15 to 23 of the draft Lisbon Declaration)*

31. Promoting education in all its aspects, namely formal, non-formal and life-long education, for the total development of youth as individuals and members of society, for the improvement of youth skills, and to prepare unskilled and out-of-school youth for employment; *(para. 15, revised)*

32. Guaranteeing access and continuity of all young women and men to good quality basic education, including family life education and the promotion of healthy life styles; *(para. 16, revised)*

33. Setting national time-bound goals for the expansion of access to, and improvement of, the quality of secondary and higher education; *(para. 17, revised)*

34. Offering adequate training in use of different forms of media to maximize their optimal impact on youth; *(para. 18, revised)*

35. Providing for the rehabilitation and reintegration of young people from juvenile detention and corrections into schools and training institutes; *(para. 19, revised)*

36. Designing new strategies focusing on youth in distress and violent circumstances, aimed at ending exclusion, offering renewed learning opportunities for early school leavers and promoting continuous learning and training opportunities for both employed and unemployed youth; *(para. 20, revised)*

37. Supporting family structures, especially those of the poor, and providing the necessary support measures to family and schools dealing with young people, particularly those living with physical and mental disabilities; *(para. 21, revised)*

38. Reinforcing and designing new partnerships to enable young people to learn, create and express themselves through cultural, physical and sports activities for the benefit of their balanced physical, intellectual, artistic, moral, emotional and spiritual development, as well as their social integration; *(para. 22, revised)*

39. Allocating resources to vocational education and training in response to economic, social and entrepreneurial realities; *(para. 23, revised)*

40. Ensuring the linkage and matching of education with the needs of industry, business and the employment market, wherever possible; and setting up extension services and other internship schemes, such as career education orientation, information dissemination programmes and networking, to enable young people to enter employment, as well as to create employment opportunities to meet the requirements of social, economic and technical changes; *(new paragraph)*

41. Involving all stakeholders of the educational process, including NGOs and the private sector, in the review of educational curricula in secondary education to ensure continued relevance for the great majority of school leavers; *(new paragraph)*

42. Emphasizing curriculum design and pedagogical approaches for earlier stages of education to lay the foundation for citizenship, competence and capability of young people to learn themselves; *(new paragraph)*

43. Including current issues such as reproductive health and substance abuse prevention in school curriculum design, as well as in extra-curricular activities; *(new paragraph)*

44. Encouraging youth participation in community work as an important part of the education system. *(new paragraph)*

Employment *(paras. 24 to 28 of the draft Lisbon Declaration)*

45. Promoting research on youth unemployment, market trends and demands and employment opportunities for formulating youth employment policies and programmes; *(new paragraph)*

46. Affirming the ultimate goal of full employment in rural and urban areas to ensure that opportunities for income-generating work are available to all youth, especially disadvantaged and marginalized youth; *(para. 24, revised)*

47. Promoting gender-sensitive policies and measures to empower young women as equal partners with young men in all fields of employment, including the technical, managerial and entrepreneurial fields; *(new paragraph)*

48. Enforcing equal employment and training opportunities for young people, regardless of ethnic and geographic origins, linguistic differences, gender, disability, political belief, creed or religion, and social, cultural and economic background; *(para. 25, revised)*

49. Promoting policies and measures for strengthening complementarity and partnership between public authorities, private sector industries and businesses, education and training institutions, financial institutions, extension service agencies, in conjunction with civil society initiatives for the promotion of youth employment; *(para. 26, revised)*

50. Investing in skills, vocational and entrepreneurial training of young people, together with an ethical orientation, and providing them with the

necessary technical, financial and marketing support to establish their own enterprises and businesses; *(para. 27, revised)*

51. Promoting employment-oriented education and training, in recognition of the current divergence of education and changing market needs; *(new paragraph)*

52. Promoting the development of mechanisms for career counseling to youth through educational and training institutions as well as the community; *(new paragraph)*

53. Fighting exploitation in the form of child labour and protecting minors against all extreme forms of child labour according to the ILO definition; *(para. 28, revised)*

54. Promoting greater national and international commitment to protecting human rights, meeting social protection needs and preventing exploitation of migrant youth labour; *(new paragraph)*

55. Ensuring greater bilateral and multilateral assistance to developing countries for the promotion of youth employment. *(new paragraph)*

Health *(paras. 29 to 35 of the draft Lisbon Declaration)*

56. Creating the political, legal, material and socio-cultural conditions which allow access to basic health care with adequate youth-friendly and gender-equitable services and paying particular attention to information and prevention programmes with special emphasis on major health problems affecting young people such as adolescent pregnancy, substance abuse, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, STDs, HIV/AIDS, malnutrition and mental disorders; *(para. 29, revised)*

57. Promoting the health of young people, preventing and treating health problems and providing rehabilitation and care by establishing effective partnerships within and between countries, local government bodies, non-governmental organizations, communities and youth themselves; *(paras. 30 and 31, merged and revised)*

58. Formulating policies and establishing programmes for the prevention of disabilities and for community-based rehabilitation and reintegration of young people with acquired disabilities; *(para. 32, revised)*

59. Formulating policies favorable to the development of health programmes, including safe water supply, sanitation, and waste disposal, in rural and poor urban areas, taking into account the specific needs of young women and men for a healthy environment; *(para. 33, revised)*

60. Recognizing the importance of sexual and reproductive health care, of disseminating information and of youth-friendly and gender-equitable services, in order to ensure physical, mental and social well-being of young people as well as access to safe, effective, affordable and

acceptable legal methods of family planning of their choice; *(para. 34, revised)*

61. Intensifying efforts and actions towards international cooperation concerning health and humanitarian action under emergencies and other situations; *(para. 35, revised)*

62. Recognizing the problem of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and other types of violence against young people and taking legal and non-legal measures for their prevention, effective law enforcement and for the prevention of multiple victimization; *(new paragraph)*

63. Ensuring full protection of young people from all forms of violence, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation and promoting physical and psychological recovery and social and economic reintegration of the victim; *(new paragraph)*

64. Recognizing and supporting the role of family and informal groups such as non-governmental organizations and youth-related organizations as the best mechanisms to provide a holistic environment for a healthy life through the provision of knowledge, information, skills and motivation; *(new paragraph)*

65. Recognizing the problems faced by local and foreign workers, the majority of whom are youth who are often neglected and under-represented and faced with all forms of exploitation, and ensuring the provision of appropriate and adequate health care services. *(new paragraph)*

Substance Abuse *(paras. 36 to 38 of the draft Lisbon Declaration)*

66. Reducing the devastating consequences of drug abuse through demand reduction policies that aim at preventing the use of drugs and at reducing the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse; *(para. 36, revised)*

67. Raising youths' awareness and decision-making skills regarding substance abuse and building healthier lifestyles, in conjunction with young people, parents, those responsible for taking care of young people and youth organizations; *(new paragraph)*

68. Giving particular attention to demand reduction notably by working with youth through formal and informal education, including peer education, information activities based on accurate and reliable information, other preventive measures such as access to recreational activities and by promoting youth-friendly and gender-equitable services and support for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of young drug abusers; *(para. 37, revised)*

69. Strengthening international, regional, sub-regional, and bilateral cooperation, and increasing efforts to fight against the illicit production, supply and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. *(para. 38, revised)*

In connection with the Lisbon World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, we urge member and associate member governments of the ESCAP region to:

70. Be represented at the Lisbon World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth to ensure that the concerns of Asian and Pacific youth are given prominence;

71. Include young people in their national delegations so that the voices of youth may be heard;

72. Support the Asia-Pacific Position as a regional input for the Lisbon World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, in particular for incorporation in the Lisbon Declaration on Youth.

We agree to pursue international cooperation to promote the above commitments and through the following actions at the national, regional and international levels: *(paras. 39 to 45 of the draft Lisbon Declaration)*

National level:

73. Request UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, the World Bank, and other United Nations agencies, as well as ADB and the IPPF to give greater support to national youth policies and programmes within their country programmes; *(para. 39, revised)*

74. Request further the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to assist member states, on request, in undertaking periodic reviews as a means to up-date the national youth policy; *(para. 40, revised)*

75. Request the United Nations Resident Coordinator System to expand the use of the mechanism of the inter-agency theme group on youth, or to set up one, where there is none, for regular exchange of information on youth policies and programmes, and for the promotion of collaboration among in-country United Nations bodies in the field of youth; *(new paragraph)*

76. Invite United Nations Information Centres to intensify their commitment on and cooperative activities with Ministries responsible for youth and national youth and student organizations to strengthen the national youth policy and programme process. *(new paragraph)*

Regional level:

77. Request ESCAP to continue to organize, on a regular basis, regional intergovernmental meetings of senior officials responsible for youth;

78. Strengthen ESCAP's human resources development programme for youth, focusing on provision of assistance to governments and other stakeholders, including youth organizations, in their efforts to develop

national youth policies as well as provision of training for youth development personnel;

79. Urge ESCAP to ensure the participation of young people in all its programmes and activities for youth;

80. Request ESCAP to coordinate with regional offices of other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and other intergovernmental bodies, in their formulation and implementation of programmes for youth;

81. Request ESCAP to provide support to national, subregional and regional alliances of youth organizations with a view to strengthening their solidarity and capacity through networking;

82. Request all concerned in regional offices of other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to set up a "Youth Desk".

International level:

83. Invite the United Nations Youth Unit, delegates of the International Preparatory Consultations and the first session of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth to consider the Asia-Pacific Position adopted by the Second Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HRD for Youth (Bangkok, Thailand, 1-5 June 1998); *(new paragraph)*

84. Ensure the follow-up of the first session of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and encourage the holding of future sessions on a regular basis so as to better promote and monitor the implementations of the World Programme of Action for Youth at all levels; *(para. 44, revised)*

85. Invite the youth-related bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to participate in the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and the related youth minister conferences, and to coordinate their structures through convening annual sessions of the United Nations Inter-Agencies Meeting on youth to promote a concerted follow-up of the recommendations of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and of the WPAY at all levels; *(new paragraph)*

86. Request the World Youth Forum of the United Nations system (Braga, Portugal, 2-7 August 1998) to review and follow up on the recommendations of the Asia-Pacific Meeting of Youth Organizations convened by ESCAP, UNESCO/PROAP and RCCAP (Bangkok, Thailand, 27-29 May 1998) and to note the Asia-Pacific Position adopted by the Second Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HRD for Youth (Bangkok, Thailand, 1-5 June 1998) so as to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action; *(new paragraph)*

87. Urge interested Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to increase their financial contribution to the United Nations Youth Fund and set-up an advisory body to this Fund, composed of representatives of both Ministers responsible for youth and youth NGOs to provide guidance on both fund-raising strategies

and project formulations, implementation and evaluation to follow-up the World Conference and World Youth Forum with specific youth projects; *(new paragraph)*

88. Urge the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations Youth Unit, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, within available resources, by increasing its regular staff and by appointing an inter-regional advisor on youth policies and programmes to provide advisory services to member states, on request, on ways and means to strengthen national youth policies and programmes; *(new paragraph)*

89. Further request the Secretary-General to set targets for the recruitment and career development of qualified young people on a geographically balanced manner and include youth as a specific agenda in the General Assembly's Working Group on the "Strengthening of the United Nations System". *(new paragraph)*